

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for modifying the surface properties of a silicone or siloxane-based polymer or copolymer substrate comprising (1) exposing said surface to an aqueous solution comprising a substance graft-polymerizable with said surface and having a pH above about 8.0 for a time sufficient to enhance graft polymerization of said substance and (2) subjecting the surface and ~~basic~~ aqueous solution to conditions whereby the graft-polymerizable substance is polymerized to form a graft-polymerized coating with the surface.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said polymerizable ~~agent~~ substance is a monomer, oligomer or mixture thereof, the graft polymerization of which with the surface forms a coating more hydrophilic than the uncoated surface.
3. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein said substance is N-vinylpyrrolidone, 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate, an alkali salt of sulfopropyl acrylate, a vinylsulfonic acid, an amino functional monomer, oligomer or mixture thereof, acrylamide, dimethylacrylamide, polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate, hydroxypropylacrylamide, methacrylic acid or dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.
4. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 1 wherein said substrate comprises polydimethylsiloxane, or a copolymer of a siloxane with a polyester, polyolefin,

polyurethane, polyimide, polyamide, polysulfone, polysulfide, polyacrylate, polyacrylic, polystyrene, polymethacrylate, ethylene-propylene copolymer, polybutadiene, styrene-butadiene copolymer, styrene-ethylene-butadiene copolymer, polycarbonate, fluorocarbon polymer, polyvinylchloride, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said solution contains a metal hydroxide to achieve said pH.

6. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 5 wherein said metal hydroxide is an alkali earth metal hydroxide or an alkali metal hydroxide.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said metal hydroxide is a sodium or potassium hydroxide.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the concentration of said substance in said solution is from about 0.01% to about 50%, by weight.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 including the step of pre-soaking said substrate surface in a solution of from about 5% to about 95% by weight, of said ~~agent~~ substance prior to polymerization for a period of time and at a temperature sufficient to facilitate diffusion of at least a portion of said agent into said substrate surface.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said graft-polymerization conditions comprise gamma or electron beam irradiation.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 10 wherein the total gamma or electron beam dose is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 0.5 Mrads, the gamma dose rate is in the range from about 10 to about 2500 rad/min, and the electron beam dose rate is from about 10 to about 10^8 rads/min.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of incorporating in said polymerized coating a drug.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein said drug is an anti-microbial agent.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said drug is a therapeutic agent.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition of matter prepared by the method of claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising the composition of matter of claim 15.

17. (Withdrawn) The article of manufacture of claim 16 comprising an intraocular lens, ocular implant, catheter, pacer lead, surgical tubing, endotracheal tube, blood bag, peripheral nerve graft, contact lens, dialysis shunt, breast implant, soft tissue implant for plastic surgery, myringotomy tubing, glaucoma shunt, surface interface device for neural connections, hernia repair membrane or bio-DNA chip.